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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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BY CABLE

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1. At a meeting of the "Democratic Bloc" on 1 February 1954, Foreign Minister Lothar Bolz advocated the use of legalistic arguments against the Western position at the Four-Power Conference. This was opposed by Minister President Otto Grotewohl.
2. Grotewohl's statement was approximately as follows: "We who specialize in such matters understand the legal aspects of the proposals made at the Conference, but the masses do not understand them. It is a fundamental consideration, I think, that the masses are most impressed by this simple, primitive demand which Adenauer, Eden, and all the Western Allies have so skilfully presented as their first point: free, all-German elections, to take place immediately and without restrictions. Here lies the danger for the many politically immature people in East Germany; and unfortunately the number of politically immature people is greater than the number of those who can see through the arguments of the West. This is the danger which seriously threatens our entire national struggle."
3. Statements made by other participants at this meeting indicated that the memorandum issued by the East German government on 30 January had no effect on the masses, whereas the Western demand for immediate free elections throughout Germany had made a strong impression.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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